



Dan Bucks
Director

Montana Department of Revenue



Brian Schweitzer
Governor

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March 24, 2008

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To: County Treasurers
County Commissioners
MACO
League of Cities and Towns

Ravalli County Commissioners

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From: Randy Wilke, Administrator *RW*
Property Assessment Division

Re: 2008 Mobile Home, Personal and Real Property Assessments

My apologies for not getting information out to you sooner regarding the status of the implementation of our new computer system, Orion, and its impact on mailing *assessment notices*. We're hopeful that the few remaining issues with our new system will be resolved within the next week or two so we'll have the full functionality of a completed system. Those remaining issues will not impede the testing and implementation of the ownership and valuation downloads, that are the key ingredient for creating assessments and doing tax billing, to the various county computer systems.

In January, CSA and Black Mountain, as well the IT Departments in the large counties, received a "full file" download test file. However after that occurred, additional data elements were identified that were not present in the download and should have been. We just completed getting those data elements added to the "full file" download test file. We're on target to provide a new file to CSA, Black Mountain and County IT staff for testing by this Friday, March 28. Once everyone finds the download information to be satisfactory for their use, the counties that currently receive daily, weekly or monthly download of information will receive them from the new system via the State E-pass site.

Most of you have been involved in implementing new computer systems – issues always seem to take a little longer to resolve than we'd like. For us that means staff has not had access to the system as much as we'd like so we're a little behind in our annual work. That also translates to assessments going out a little later than normal. Our current schedule has us beginning to produce mobile home assessments on April 12 with a completion date of April 24. Personal property assessments will be mailed beginning on May 27 with a June 9 completion date. Real property assessments will begin on June 10 and be completed by June 30. Actually those completion deadlines are virtually the same as last year. We'll make every effort to complete the process sooner so you can accomplish the tax billing for mobile homes and personal property before the end of this fiscal year.

One final issue.....during our Treasurer Work Group meetings last year, we agreed that Special Assessment data should not be downloaded from the Orion system to County Computer Systems this spring. While we're currently testing that functionality, we don't want to rush the process and we certainly want you to have ample time to test it on your systems before it's put into use. We anticipate use of that functionality this fall.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Cc: Area Managers
Regional Managers
PAD offices